

and farming—among other things—for hours.

Mr. Speaker, our country needs all the places like Snooky's that we can get, and we need to keep all of those that we can. So it's appropriate to thank Bruce Yawn, and all the other Bruce Yawns of the land, for the contribution they make to our sense of community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire). The Chair would remind Members and staff to take their conversations outside the Chamber.

#### VERA, VOICE OF TEXAS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, each month I receive thousands of emails from my neighbors in Texas about issues that are important to them. Vera from Humble, Texas, wrote me this:

"American manufacturers do their part to improve the environment, and United States manufacturing is the leader in developing clean technologies. Policymakers should look very cautiously at new government programs that would expand environmental rules or impose entirely new regulatory regimes. The EPA's actions, such as those on ozone standards, chemical action plans, and cement emission regulations will increase costs, destroy jobs, and undermine U.S. manufacturers' ability to compete in the global marketplace. Our position and our prosperity will not hold if American manufacturing continues to be the victim of overregulation. Congress must commit to policies that ensure America's ability to compete and to succeed."

Mr. Speaker, Vera is right. Regulators need to quit putting American businesses out of business because of unnecessary, expensive overregulation.

And that's just the way it is.

#### UNLESS CONGRESS ACTS IN 22 DAYS

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, unless Congress acts in the next 22 days, the interest rate for the subsidized Stafford student loan program is going to increase from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. Despite this approaching deadline, with over 7 million college students waiting for an answer, what is the House GOP leadership's response? To send us home today for the ninth week of recess since last January. Despite the fact that the Senate will be in session next week, and as was reported in the press last night, a real bipartisan compromise is going to be emerging. But, of course, we won't be able to act on it

next week because we won't be here. The next time we're on the floor, this chart will be down to 11 days until the rate doubles.

Mr. Speaker, this work schedule by the Republican leadership would make Homer Simpson blush. It is time for us to go to work and find a compromise that is going to fix this issue for 7 million college students waiting for an answer all across America.

#### PRESIDENT'S POLICIES HURTING AMERICA

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, there are too many Americans out of work, and the President's policies only make things worse. There are fewer prime working-age adults in jobs than at any point in the two decades prior to the start of the recession. By combining those who are not actively seeking work, along with those who are involuntarily working part-time, the real unemployment rate checks in at 14.5 percent.

The President's policies have led to lower U.S. rankings on world indexes of economic freedom and business opportunity. The President's regulations are costing businesses billions. The EPA Utility MACT rule alone will cost \$9.6 billion per year to the American consumer, according to the Agency's own estimates.

The President has stalled energy development on public lands, leaving us subject to foreign oil imports and high gas prices.

Mr. Speaker there are 28 bipartisan bills awaiting Senate action. It is long past time for the President and the Senate to join with the House to increase American jobs, opportunity, and competitiveness.

#### AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, last night we debated the future of our national transportation system. There are two competing views. There are those of us who want to rebuild and build upon the Eisenhower legacy with a national transportation system. And then there are those on the ultra-right who say the Federal Government should not invest in the national transportation system. It should be devolved to the States.

Hey, we already tried that. This is 1956. This is the brand spanking new Kansas turnpike. Guess what? It ended in a farmer's field at the Oklahoma line because Oklahoma didn't build their section until the Eisenhower plan passed and the Federal Government made the investment. They want to go back to those good old days. That's going to work really well.

Those of us who believe in investing in a national transportation system, putting America back to work, being more competitive and more fuel efficient last night were accused of being Socialists. We're Socialists because we believe in that. Right, Dwight David Eisenhower was a Socialist? The U.S. Chamber of Commerce are Socialists?

The U.S. Chamber is adamantly opposed to the Broun instruction. They say the Chamber strongly opposes the Broun motion to instruct conferees and urges you to vote against this effort to slash funding for highways, transit and safety programs.

He would take it zero—no new investment on October 1.

That's bad for America.

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#### FIND THE LEAK, MR. PRESIDENT

(Mr. BROOKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, today I call on the White House to get off the campaign trail, show leadership, do the President's job, and aggressively pursue the leakers of America's state secrets. These leaks have ranged from implicating the United States in Stuxnet, a computer virus that targeted nuclear centrifuges in Iran, to revealing a detailed "kill list" for terrorists targeted for assassination. Not only do these leaks compromise America's efforts to preserve our national security, they teach our allies not to trust us. Look at the doctor who helped the United States gather DNA evidence to locate Osama bin Laden. His reward? His identity was revealed, and he faces 33 years in a Pakistan jail.

Mr. Speaker, where is the outrage from the White House about these leaks? It's time for the President to plug the holes and protect America's national security.

#### INVEST IN AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to implore my colleagues to abandon their my-way-or-the-highway approach to the job-creating highway bill currently in conference. We cannot afford to kick the can down the road again.

During the recent recession, 1.9 million jobs were lost in the construction sector. There are still about 1.4 million unemployed construction workers. But reauthorizing a long-term highway bill, as is encouraged by the President, would begin to fix this problem.

In my district alone, 25 years ago, on April 5, 1987, the Thruway bridge collapsed at 10:50 a.m. on a Sunday morning near Fort Hunter, New York. Ten people died. They included three men